

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

WWW.EPPC-UCC.COM

**Ministers:** All of God's People

**Clergy: Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro**  
RevTakouhi@TerraUtopia.ca (613-272-8977)

**May 3, 2020**  
Fourth Sunday after Easter  
"Good Shepherd Sunday"

**WE GATHER**

**Prelude:** "It is Well with My Soul"

**Welcome**

**Acknowledging the Traditional Territory**

**Spiritual Focus:**

*"Assurance in God's Presence and Care does not erase evil and sufferings of life: However, it helps us journey with Confidence and Courage, alongside the Good Shepherd..."*

**Gathering Call:**

Beloved, let us gather where our journeys overlap, where our week's end searches for rest. Our worried minds seek peace. May this gathering remind you that the ceiling of the Almighty's Temple, is the heavens above, and there is no division between the sheep and the Good Shepherd. May this Sabbath, greet you with Christ's Sabbath; and that you can hear afresh the Good Shepherd call your name - Beloved. Let us worship together with love and reverence.

**MV 46** "Bless the Lord" (CCLI Licensing)

**WE APPROACH GOD**

**Opening Prayer:**

Great Shepherd, you find us wherever we are. Today, we come to your presence willingly to receive your Word in its many forms and parts. At this time of virtual gathering, may you open our ears, eyes, and hearts so that we are refreshed and rejuvenated once again. Fill us with a great awe and unconditional understanding, so that we can carry on your work through our actions, and if necessary, use words. We pray because of the Good Shepherd, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

**MV 126** "Are You a Shepherd?" (OneLicense.net)

**WE SEEK WISDOM**

**Prayer of Illumination:**

Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us to be devoted to the teachings of your Word, that through it we may hear your voice and Live your abundant life. **Amen.**

**Psalms 23 – God is My Shepherd**

**A COVID-19 Poem based on Psalm 23**

*by Bronwen Harman, President of E.O.O.R.C.*

In our anxiety we remember the One  
Who is present to us as a shepherd of old  
Who help us to find green pastures  
Lead us to still deep pools of water  
That we may find our path of righteousness

When we are in Death Valley  
Where the shadows frighten us  
Our shepherd is there to keep us brave  
For even as we feel alone and lost  
We know God will carry us home

There at home our enemies at bay  
We find feasting and friendship  
A promise that God's House  
Will be there always when we seek  
Food for our souls and deep compassion.

Gospel of John 10:1-10

**Word of Life** *"Following the Shepherd is for Our Sake..."* **Rev. Takouhi**

**MV 8** *"And on This Path"* (CCLI Licensing)

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE**

**Our Offertory:**

*Partnering with God to help Miracles be Visible.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication:**

Holy and generous God, you have anointed us and we are yours. Bless these offerings that they may become green pastures and still waters for any and all who need your comfort and restoration. **Amen.**

**GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD WITH HOPE**

**MV 161** *"I Have Called You by Your Name"* (CCLI Licensing)

**Prayers of Hope and Healing**

**The Prayer that Jesus taught his followers**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**MV 218** *"May the Love of the Lord"* (OneLicense.net)

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***Our Churches United  
The Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge***



***Fourth Sunday after Easter  
"Good Shepherd Sunday"***

**May 3, 2020**

World Wide Web - Virtual Church